



# Implementation Science at the Intersection of Aging and Cancer

Current State and Future Directions

Complimentary Virtual Conference

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

12:00—4:45 p.m. (EDT)



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

# Overview

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is pleased to present the inaugural research conference of the **Center for Implementation Research in Cancer in Later Life (CIRCL)**. This annual program is designed to advance research on the dissemination and implementation of behavioral health interventions for older adults with cancer and their caregivers through knowledge sharing, collaboration, and networking.

The conference will feature a keynote presentation, panel discussions highlighting cutting-edge research, and breakout sessions focused on emerging innovations in the field. Attendees will have opportunities to engage with peers, exchange ideas, and foster new collaborations.

## Target Audience

This conference is intended for physicians, researchers, and other clinicians interested in dissemination and implementation (D&I) science, and in applying D&I approaches to improve the behavioral health of older adults with cancer.

## Objectives

- Describe the relevance of dissemination and implementation (D&I) science principles and methods to research on behavioral health in older adults with cancer and their caregivers.
- Apply D&I science methods to their work with older adults with cancer and their caregivers.

**This conference is complimentary  
for all participants.**

For full program details and to register, visit:  
**[msk.org/CIRCLconference](https://msk.org/CIRCLconference)**



## **The Center for Implementation Research in Cancer in Later Life (CIRCL)**

The mission of the Center for Implementation Research in Cancer in Later Life (CIRCL) is to reduce the gap between behavioral intervention research and clinical care for older adults with cancer and their caregivers. This mission will be achieved by equipping the research workforce with the skills to integrate dissemination and implementation (D&I) science throughout all phases of the intervention development process. The long-term goal of CIRCL is to improve patient care and outcomes by increasing clinical access to evidence-based behavioral interventions using efficacious D&I techniques.

Funded by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health (4R33CA277833-03), CIRCL will leverage perspectives from multiple stakeholders to develop and provide educational and research resources that support the infusion of D&I methods into the development and testing of behavioral interventions for older adults with cancer. CIRCL will have an emphasis on diverse populations and investigators and the use of emerging technologies. CIRCL will increase the D&I potential of behavioral interventions across system levels (e.g., individual, clinic, institution) and target outcomes (e.g., distress, tobacco use) to address wide-ranging unmet needs of older adults with cancer and their caregivers.



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## Conference Director



### **Kelly McConnell, PhD**

Attending Psychologist,  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Co-Director, Psycho-oncology of Aging and  
Cancer Research Laboratory (PAC MSK)  
Co-Director, Center for Implementation Research in  
Cancer in Later Life (CIRCL)  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

## Conference Co-Directors



### **Cary Reid, MD, PhD**

Professor of Medicine  
Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine  
Co-Director, Center for Implementation Research in  
Cancer in Later Life (CIRCL)  
Weill Cornell Medicine



### **Sara Czaja, PhD**

Professor of Gerontology in Medicine  
Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine  
Co-Director, Center for Implementation Research in  
Cancer in Later Life (CIRCL)  
Weill Cornell Medicine

## Conference Faculty

### **Allison Cole, MD, PhD**

Professor  
Department of Family Medicine  
University of Washington

### **Rebecca Saracino, PhD**

Assistant Attending Psychologist  
Department of Psychiatry and  
Behavioral Sciences  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

### **Diane Ehlers, PhD**

Associate Professor of Epidemiology  
Department of Quantitative Health  
Sciences  
Mayo Clinic Arizona

### **Ashley Wilder Smith, PhD**

Chief, Outcomes Research Branch,  
Healthcare Delivery Research Program  
Division of Cancer Control and  
Population Sciences  
National Cancer Institute

### **Rachel Freedman, MD**

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Medical Oncology  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

### **Lisa Lowenstein, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Department of Health Services Research  
MD Anderson Cancer Center

# Agenda

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

All times are listed in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT, UTC-4).

TIME	SESSIONS
11:45 a.m.	Participant Zoom Sign-On and Check-In
12:00 p.m.	<b>Welcome Remarks and CIRCL Overview</b> Kelly McConnell, PhD
12:15 p.m.	 <b>KEYNOTE PRESENTATION</b> <b>The Importance of D&amp;I Science to Research on Cancer and Aging</b> Ashley Wilder Smith, PhD
1:15 p.m.	Break
1:30 p.m.	<b>PANEL PRESENTATION</b> <b>Current Research in Implementation Science, Aging, and Cancer</b> Cary Reid, MD, PhD ( <i>Moderator</i> ) Diane Ehlers, PhD Rachel Freedman, MD Lisa Lowenstein, PhD
2:30 p.m.	<b>DISCUSSION GROUPS</b> <b>Hot Topics in D&amp;I</b> Sara Czaja, PhD ( <i>Moderator</i> ) Kelly McConnell, PhD Cary Reid, MD, PhD
3:30 p.m.	Break
3:45 p.m.	<b>PILOT AWARD PRESENTATIONS</b> <b>The Future of Implementation Science in Cancer and Aging</b> Kelly McConnell, PhD ( <i>Moderator</i> ) Allison Cole, MD, PhD Rebecca Saracino, PhD
4:30 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Kelly McConnell, PhD
4:45 p.m.	Adjourn

## Accreditation

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

### **AMA Credit Designation Statement**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center designates this live activity for a maximum of **3.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup>**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

*An application has been submitted for **Social Work Contact Hours**.*

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